

28 May 1984

PERSIAN GULF
WAR

WOODRUFF: There were a couple of border incidents and killings reported, but no major military action today in the Persian Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, and no further attacks on ships in the gulf. Both sides appear to be preparing for the next major round of fighting in the three-and-a-half-year-old war. Western intelligence sources reportedly say Iran has massed 500,000 men near the marshy Majnoon Islands and moved two divisions to the city of Hamid, preparations, observers say, for a long-awaited attack on Iraqi troops near the city of Basra. The New York Times reports the Reagan administration will send a total of 400 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia to help it ward off attacks on gulf shipping. Two U.S. jet airborne tankers would also be sent to the Saudis, and they would be used to help the Saudi air force protect more sea area from Iranian attacks. And in Tehran, Iran's president today warned Persian Gulf nations to stay out of the war with Iraq. Ali Khamenei said that Arab states that did not remain neutral will, in his words, 'face the consequences.

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